

BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
May 13, 2025

The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, Wayne and Washtenaw Counties, Michigan, met in a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, May 13, 2025, at 7 p.m. at the E. J. McClendon Educational Center, 454 S. Harvey Street, Plymouth, Michigan, 48170.

Superintendent Merritt shared the sad news of the passing of Plymouth High School teacher Sharon Mackey, following her courageous battle with cancer. She extended heartfelt condolences to Sharon's family and colleagues and requested a moment of silence in her honor.

Vice President Sidhu called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. in the boardroom.

Present: Members Kehoe, Picard, Sidhu, Vos, and Westra

Absent: Members Ahmed and Christenson

Administrators Present: Dr. Monica Merritt, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Liz Vartanian-Gibbs, Assistant Superintendent of Student & Family Engagement
Ms. Beth Rayl, Chief Academic and Innovation Officer
Mr. Kurt Tyszkiewicz, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services
Mr. Abdul Madyun, Chief Human Resource Officer
Ms. Caitlin Opfermann, Early Childhood Coordinator
Ms. Kitty Hjelmroth, Special Education Supervisor of Early Childhood and Speech Language Pathologist
Mr. Josh Meier, Director of School Safety and Security
Mr. Randy Rice, Facilities Manager

Others Present: Ms. Diane Robertson, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and Board
Mr. Arjun Swaminathan, SVA Student Co-Chair
Ms. Jennifer Maino, TMP Architecture, Inc., Interior Designer

Vice President Sidhu led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Action Item #25-05-67: 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 Leaves, Retirements, Regular Meeting Minutes from April 22, 2025, First Reading Policies, an Out-of-Country Field Trip to Spain/Morocco, and a Cooperative Education Agreement with Livonia Public Schools (Career Technical Education Program).

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

Nays: None

The motion was carried 5-0

Leaves

Hammond, Christopher	Student Support Coordinator Bentley Elementary School	Professional Growth Leave Effective 2025-2026 school year
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Retirements

Bawden, Susan	History Salem High School	Retirement Effective 6-11-25
Blankenship, Brenda	Food Service Coordinator Administrative Building	Retirement Effective 6-30-25
Delproposto, Kimberly	College & Beyond Schoolcraft Starkweather Academy	Retirement Effective 6-11-25
Gell Jr., James	Plymouth High School Physics	Retirement Effective 6-30-25

Newton, Rhonda	Math Success Specialist Salem High School	Retirement Effective 6-11-25
Wisniewski, Christine,	ASD Teacher Coordinator/TC Smith Elementary School	Retirement Effective 6-11-25

Approval of Minutes

The Regular Meeting Minutes from April 22, 2025, were approved as presented.

First Reading Policies

- Policy #1623 - Section 504-ADA Prohibition Against Disability Discrimination
- Policy #2260.01 - Section 504-ADA Prohibition Against Disability Discrimination
- Policy #5517 - Section 504-ADA Prohibition Against Disability Discrimination
- Policy #6110 - Grand Funds
- Policy #6111 - Internal Controls
- Policy #6112 - Cash Management of Grants
- Policy #6114 - Cost Principles-Spending Federal Funds

Out-of-Country Field Trips

- Spain and Morocco – Plymouth High School – Grades 9-12

Action Items

- Approved a Resolution for a Cooperative Education Program Agreement between Livonia Public Schools (Career Technical Education Program) and Plymouth-Canton Community Schools for the 2025-2026 school year. (First and Final Reading)

B. Celebrating Success

Member Westra presented the Volunteers in Public Service (VIPS) Award to the Robert Bosch Corporation in recognition of their dedicated volunteers whose innovative STEM Mentorship Program continues to make a meaningful and lasting impact on P-CCS students.

C. Board Committee Reports/Action

President's Report – Lauren Christenson

Vice President Sidhu expressed appreciation to the dedicated teachers of P-CCS in recognition of National Teacher Appreciation Week. She also highlighted the success of the Mental Health and Wellness Fair, extending thanks to Kathy Grodus and Liz Vartanian-Gibbs for their efforts in organizing the event, as well as to the Board members who attended. Board members also shared positive feedback about the recent P-CCS 2020 Bond Showcase, where they had the opportunity to tour the new construction projects at P-CEP. In closing, Member Sidhu provided legislative updates from a recent MASB event in Lansing, which she attended with Member Vos.

Student Performance and Achievement Committee (SPA) – Judy Westra

Member Sidhu shared that the SPA Committee met on May 7, 2025. The committee reviewed MLL program updates, a course proposal regarding artificial intelligence, and course material updates for AP Language and Composition. The committee also reviewed an out-of-country field trip and discussed the district's current cell phone policy. The next SPA Committee meeting is scheduled for June 4, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. in the boardroom at the E.J. McClendon Educational Center. Community members are welcome to attend.

Policy Advisory Committee (F&O) – Anupam Sidhu

Member Sidhu shared that the Policy Committee has not met since the last Board meeting. 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. Community members are welcome to attend.

Finance and Operations Committee - Patrick Kehoe

Member Kehoe shared that the Finance & Operations Committee met on May 8, 2025. The committee reviewed a proposed purchase of furniture and equipment for the new P-CEP Innovation Hub, as well as a recommendation for security and infrastructure repairs. Purchase recommendations were also reviewed for early childhood playground equipment, as well as a chiller replacement at Field Elementary, and the March financial statements.

The next F&O meeting is scheduled for May 22, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. in the boardroom at the E.J. McClendon Educational Center. Community members are encouraged to attend.

Student Voice in Action Committee (SVA) - Lauren Christenson

Liz Vartanian-Gibbs, Assistant Superintendent of Student and Family Services, shared that the SVA Committee has not met since the last Board meeting. She provided a brief recap of the April meeting, during which students worked on creating activities to promote Mental Health and Wellness Awareness Month. The next SVA Committee meeting is scheduled for May 19, 2025, at 4:30 p.m. at Pioneer Middle School. All are encouraged to attend.

D. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Merritt began by recognizing National Teacher Appreciation Week and expressing heartfelt gratitude to the dedicated educators of P-CCS. She also shared a resolution from Wayne RESA honoring the impact of teachers throughout the community.

She extended special congratulations to Jena Scott, a teacher at Starkweather Academy, who was named the 2025 Michigan Adult Educator of the Year for her passion, creativity, and commitment to student success.

The community was invited to attend the annual P-CCS K-12 Art Show on Saturday, May 17, from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Salem High School. This event will showcase the exceptional talents of student artists and celebrate the district's arts education program. She also encouraged the community to tune in to 88.1 The Park, the district's student-run radio station, on Saturday for its annual fundraising auction to raise funds for new radio station space.

Superintendent Merritt also congratulated the P-CEP Culinary Team for finishing second at the National ProStart Invitational in Baltimore. Led by Chef Diana Woodward, the team competed against more than 20 elite programs, earning awards, scholarships, and prizes.

She concluded by congratulating four P-CEP students—Shourik Das, Hannah Thomas, Dhruv Hedge, and Rohit Mahesh—who were recently named 2025 National Merit Scholars. This prestigious award recognizes students' academic excellence and dedication. This year, P-CEP had a record 22 National Merit Finalists.

During her report, team members from P-CEP Lightning Robotics FRC 862 presented an overview of the robotics program, which began in 1999 and now includes five engineering and four business subgroups, with 140 students participating each season. They highlighted the program's expansion into elementary and middle schools through FLL and FTC. They expressed the need for a coordinator and additional coaching support as the program continues to grow.

E. Citizens' Comments

- Gloria Logan spoke in support of attendance at the Plymouth summer concert series
- Rachel Hayes and Ianna Loring spoke on support for LGBTQ+ students
- Michelle West, Julie Cassar, and Nicole McCainn spoke on Bentley Elementary School's building climate.
- Sarah Krzyzanski and Michelle Moutsatson spoke on support for immigrant students
- Pamela Morgan spoke on teacher classroom placement

F. Administrative Reports/Recommendations

Student and Family Engagement – Liz Vartanian-Gibbs

Early Childhood Program Highlights (Goals A, B, & C) (Presentation)

Caitlin Opfermann, Early Childhood Coordinator, and Kitty Hjelmroth, Special Education Supervisor for Early Childhood and Speech-Language Pathologists, presented an update on the P-CCS Early Childhood Programs, which serve the district's early learners through GSRP, tuition-based preschool, Early-On, and Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE).

The presentation highlighted encouraging academic data and a strong emphasis on kindergarten readiness, particularly in areas such as emotional regulation, motor skills, and literacy. The program integrates evidence-based practices and multi-tiered systems of support, with a focus on executive functioning, communication, and early problem-solving. These efforts directly support the objectives of the P-CCS Dynamic Plan.

Key accomplishments include the successful inclusion of students with special needs and partnerships with CTE students, which have provided hands-on classroom experience. Future goals include expanding access to Pre-K classes, increasing inclusive opportunities, improving playground facilities, and enhancing summer programming.

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

Student Services – Kurt Tyszkiewicz

P-CCS Safety and Security Updates (Goals B & E) (Presentation)

Josh Meier, Director of Safety and Security, gave a presentation highlighting 2025 Safety and Security Department updates, which align with the goals of the P-CCS Dynamic Plan. He provided staffing updates and highlighted security enhancements made possible through the State of Michigan 31aa grant funding. Upgrades to CTE program cameras, building intercoms, access control systems, camera servers, and exterior surveillance cameras were reviewed. The district is also partnering with Motorola to introduce advanced weapon detection technologies, including a visible firearm detection system and mobile scanners.

Ongoing security assessments will continue at athletic facilities. The district has made significant ADA accessibility improvements, including upgrades to doors, elevators, card readers, and wheelchair lifts, reflecting a commitment to continuous improvement and equitable access for all students and visitors.

Future projects include applying for a tree grant to support environmental security enhancements. Additional initiatives include continued system integration improvements to improve emergency response capabilities and the exploration of an updated bus camera system.

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

Finance and Operations – Jill Minnick

First Reading Resolutions

- Consider Approval of a Resolution to Purchase Furniture and Equipment for BP #HS-4a Canton High School Innovation Hub/Robotics Addition. Jennifer Maino, TMP Architecture, Inc., Interior Designer, provided an overview of this recommended purchase. Feedback was gathered from students and staff at all three high schools before selecting the recommended furniture pieces. This purchase request is for an amount not to exceed \$62,270.25 and will be paid from 2023 bond funds. This total includes a 5% contingency for potential tariff or surcharge increases. (First Reading)

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

Final Reading Resolutions

- Action Item #25-05-68:** It was moved by Member Kehoe and seconded by Member Picard to Approve a Resolution for an Emergency Purchase Request for Security Infrastructure Repairs at P-CEP, due to damage caused by lightning strikes at P-CEP. Josh Meier, Director of Safety and Security, provided an overview of this purchase, recommending replacement of the damaged equipment from Security 101, the district's preferred Avigilon vendor. The total cost will not exceed \$32,756.74. The purchase will be initially paid through the district's security budget and is expected to be reimbursed through a pending insurance claim. (First and Final Reading)

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

Nays: None

The motion was carried 5-0

- Action Item #25-05-69:** It was moved by Member Kehoe and seconded by Member Vos to Approve a Resolution for a Chiller Replacement at Field Elementary School, which has failed and is no longer operational. Member Kehoe and Randy Rice, Facilities Manager, provided an overview of this recommendation to purchase a replacement chiller system from Carrier, Inc. at a total cost of \$76,500, which will be paid from the 2023 bond. Quotes were received from three vendors. This request is brought forward for approval as a first and final reading to expedite the chiller being operational before the start of school in the fall. (First and Final Reading)

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

Nays: None

The motion was carried 5-0

- Action Item #25-05-70:** It was moved by Member Kehoe and seconded by Member Picard to Approve a Resolution for Preschool Compliant Playground Equipment for Dodson and Isbister Elementary Schools. Member Kehoe provided an overview of the recommendation, noting that it is being brought forward as a first and final reading to ensure timely delivery and installation before the start of the school year in the fall. The equipment is required to meet state licensing standards. Sinclair Recreation is the recommended vendor, with

a total cost not to exceed \$189,354.36, which includes a \$30,000 allowance for site services. The purchase will be funded by 2023 bond proceeds. (First and Final Reading)

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

Nays: None

The motion was carried 5-0

- **Action Item #25-05-71:** It was moved by Member Kehoe and seconded by Member Westra to Approve a Resolution for the Renewal of a Mapping Licensing Agreement with Critical Response Group (CRG). 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. (Final Reading)

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

Nays: None

The motion was carried 5-0

- **Action Item #25-05-72:** It was moved by Member Kehoe and seconded by Member Vos to Approve a Resolution for the Renewal of a Resolution to Purchase Track Equipment for the Third Stadium at P-CEP. The recommended purchase will be made through Aluminum Athletic Equipment Company (AAE) using TIPS/TAPS consortium pricing (#230203) at a total cost of \$116,354.60, funded by the 2023 bond. (Final Reading)

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

Nays: None

The motion was carried 5-0

Teaching and Learning – Bethany Rayl

Final Reading Resolutions

- **Action Item #25-05-73:** It was moved by Member Kehoe and seconded by Member Westra to Approve a Resolution for 5th Grade Maturation HIV Lesson Updates. It is recommended that the district adopt the video "HIV & Me: Marissa's Story" (Redefine Positive) and a corresponding slide deck, along with accompanying discussion and assessment materials. The updated lesson will be implemented during the 2025-2026 school year and beyond. There is no cost associated with the new and updated materials. ((Final Reading)

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

Nays: None

The motion was carried 5-0

G. Remaining Citizens' Comments

- None

H. Action Items/Discussion

First Reading Resolutions

- Consider Approval of a Resolution Designating Local District's Wayne RESA Election Representative. Member Vos volunteered to represent P-CCS and will attend the biennial election at Wayne RESA on June 2, 2025, to vote on the district's behalf. An alternate will be decided at the next meeting. (First Reading).
- Consider Approval of a Resolution for Local District Vote on Wayne RESA Budget (First Reading)

I. Follow-up Board Questions

- 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.

J. Adjournment

Vice President Sidhu adjourned the Regular Meeting at 9:47 p.m.

Judy Westra
Secretary, Board of Education

*Approved at the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education on 5/27/25/dr