

BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
May 27, 2025

The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, Wayne and Washtenaw Counties, Michigan, met in a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, May 27, 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 7:02 p.m. in the boardroom.

Present: Members Ahmed, Christenson, Kehoe, Picard, Sidhu, and Vos
Absent: Member Westra

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

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

Josh Patterson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Action Item #25-05-74: It was moved by Member Sidhu and seconded by Member Ahmed to Adopt the Agenda and the Consent Agenda as presented. The Consent Agenda consisted of Leaves, Resignations, Retirements, Regular Meeting Minutes from May 13, 2025, Final Reading Policies, a Resolution for the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) Membership for the year 8-1-25 through 7-31-26, and a Cooperative Education Agreement with Wayne-Westland Community School District.

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

Leaves

Viguilla, Rebecca	Elementary Classroom – EL Teacher Bentley Elementary School	Childcare Leave of Absence Effective 5-12-25 through 10-31-25
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Resignations

Clark, Nyssa	Speech Correction Bentley Elementary School	Resignation Effective 8-15-25
Johnson, Lauren	Elementary Classroom Smith Elementary School	Resignation Effective 6-13-25

Retirements

Bertoia, Kristin	Instructional Coach Tonda Elementary School	Retirement Effective 6-11-25
Kennedy, Lynne	Elementary Classroom Dodson Elementary School	Retirement Effective 6-30-25
Moore Christopher	Middle School Assistant Principal Pioneer Middle School	Retirement Effective 6-30-25
Peal, Lisa	History Plymouth High School	Retirement Effective 6-16-25

Ruhno, Kellie	Science East Middle School	Retirement Effective 6-11-25
Vandyke, Joni	Resource Room Plymouth High School	Retirement Effective 6-11-25
Wizner, Robin	Resource Room Field Elementary School	Retirement Effective 6-11-25

Approval of Minutes

The Regular Meeting Minutes from May 13, 2025, were approved as presented.

Final 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

Action Items

- Approved a Resolution for the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) Membership for the year 8-1-25 through 7-31-26 (First and Final Reading)
- 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 Sidhu presented the Mary Beth Carroll Extra Miler Award to George Hill, Principal of Bird Elementary, in recognition of his compassionate leadership, integrity, and unwavering commitment to equity and excellence. Through intentional actions, he has built strong connections with students and has fostered a school culture where students feel seen, valued, and empowered to succeed.

C. Board Committee Reports/Action

President's Report – Lauren Christenson

President Christenson extended well wishes to staff, students, and families for a strong finish to the school year. She thanked fellow Board members who attended last week's P-CEP Honors Night and congratulated the students recognized for their achievements. She also reminded families that registration remains open for the district's Young 5s program and encouraged them to visit the district website for more information.

Student Performance and Achievement Committee (SPA) – Judy Westra

Member Sidhu shared that the SPA Committee has not met since the last board meeting. 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. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Policy Advisory Committee (F&O) – Anupam Sidhu

Member Sidhu shared that the Policy Committee met this evening, and she thanked the citizens who attended. The Committee reviewed Policy #6325-Procurement of Federal grants and funds, which had minor revisions. Policies #7310 and #7450 regarding property inventory and distribution were also reviewed and will move forward to the full Board for approval. The next Policy Committee meeting will take place on June 24, 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 22, 2025. The committee reviewed budget progress updates, a recommendation to purchase CTE cameras, and the April financial statements. The next F&O meeting is scheduled for June 5, 2025, at 4:30 p.m. in the Salem High School Conference room. This location and time change will allow Board members to attend the Starkweather graduation commencement.

Student Voice in Action Committee (SVA) - Lauren Christenson

Josh Patterson and Arjan Swaminathan, SVA Co-chairs, shared that the SVA Committee met on May 19, 2025. The Food and Nutrition Services department provided samples of a new menu item, and the committee provided feedback. The committee also discussed the success of the *Wear Green* initiative and ways to improve awareness for next year. The district's Hate and Bias Form process was also reviewed. The next SVA Committee meeting will be held in the fall, and the date will be announced once it is scheduled.

D. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Merritt extended heartfelt congratulations to the graduating Class of 2025, recognizing their hard work and acknowledging the skills they will carry into the next chapter of their lives. She shared details about the upcoming graduation commencement ceremonies to honor these remarkable students.

She also spoke about the recent 2025 P-CEP Honors Night, where students were recognized for their academic excellence, scholarships, and achievements in athletics and extracurricular activities.

P-CEP was also recently featured in the local media. Channel 4's *'In Your Community'* series followed Salem senior Ben Trudell for a day, capturing the student experience at the Park and highlighting the various pathways available to students across the three-school campus. Meanwhile, Channel 7 ran a segment featuring 88.1 The Park and its inspiring campaign to expand its studio space. The station's annual radio auction recently raised nearly \$30,000 to support this project.

In closing, Superintendent Merritt spoke about the success of the P-CCS K-12 Art Show, which highlighted the impressive work of student artists from across the district. She expressed appreciation to the district's talented art educators and Cathie Williams, K-12 Curriculum Coordinator for Visual and Performing Arts, for their leadership and commitment to students.

E. Citizens' Comments

- Christopher Townsend spoke on DEI policies
- Tim Moza spoke on parental voice and student success
- John Amnchukwu spoke on student educational materials and services
- Kelsi Rea spoke on school library book choices
- Rustin Rea spoke on transgender issues
- Colin Miranda spoke on gender pronouns in district policies
- Peggy Leonard, Nicole McGinn, Julie Milo Cassar, and Michelle West spoke on the Bentley Elementary building climate

F. Administrative Reports/Recommendations

Finance and Operations – Jill Minnick

2025-2026 Budget – Progress Update

Ms. Jill Minnick, Chief Finance and Operations Officer, presented an overview of the proposed 2025-2026 budget, developed to support the areas of greatest need and align with the objectives of the P-CCS Dynamic Plan. Her presentation included a review of the budget timeline, current state budget proposals, and insights from the Consensus Revenue Estimating Conference (CREC). The district projects enrollment at 15,883 students and anticipates a \$392 per-pupil increase in the foundation allowance. According to the House Fiscal Agency, 70% of traditional districts are facing enrollment declines.

To maintain fiscal stability, the district plans to implement budget reductions over the next four years to maintain a balanced budget through the 2028-2029 fiscal year. For the 2025-2026 school year, a reduction of \$5.5 million is planned to maintain a 15% fund balance, which will be partially offset by \$2.5 million in unspent funds from the current year's budget. Ms. Minnick also outlined the next steps, including a public budget hearing scheduled for June 27, 2025, prior to the Board's regular meeting. The Board must adopt the final 2025-2026 budget by June 30, 2025.

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

First Reading Resolutions

Consider Approval of a Resolution to Purchase Security Cameras for Career and Technical Education (CTE) Program Areas at P-CEP. Chief Finance and Operations Officer Jill Minnick presented this recommendation to replace outdated cameras in CTE program areas that are not currently connected to the district's secure network. The proposed purchase includes Avigilon cameras and related hardware at a total cost not to exceed \$73,600.57. The equipment will be procured through the Safeware consortium purchasing program and funded through the State of Michigan Aid Act 31aa allocation.

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

Final Reading Resolutions

- **Action Item #25-05-75:** It was moved by Member Kehoe and seconded by Member Ahmed to Approve a Resolution for the Purchase of Furniture and Equipment for BP #HS-4a Canton High School Innovation Hub/Robotics Addition. The recommended purchase, in an amount not to exceed \$62,270.25, will be funded through the 2023 bond. This total includes a 5% contingency to account for potential tariff or surcharge increases. (Final Reading)

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

Nays: None

The motion was carried 6-0

Teaching and Learning – Bethany RaylFirst Reading Resolutions

- Consider Approval of a Resolution for a New Course Proposal (Understanding and Using Artificial Intelligence Responsibly). Beth Rayl, Chief Academic and Innovation Officer, gave an overview of the recommendation for this new high school course, which will be implemented in the second semester of the 2025-26 school year and beyond. This course is designed for 11th- and 12th-grade students, providing a hands-on, comprehensive introduction to artificial intelligence (AI). The course is designed to align with district privacy standards and is accessible to all students, as no prior coding experience is required. The total proposed cost for the course is \$20,400, which includes supplies, professional development, and course development stipends. Funding will include \$18,000 from CTE grants and \$2,400 from the Teaching and Learning general fund.

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

G. Remaining Citizens' Comments

- Adam Rebandt spoke on boys in girls' spaces
- Michelle Moustakas, Sara Krzyzanski, Joan Pence, and Debra Finkenbinder-Pepper spoke in support of immigrant students
- Rachel Hayes, Heather Gatny, and Laurie Mayers spoke on support for LGBTQ+ students
- Ian Gonzalez spoke on safe gun storage
- Natalie Sharpe spoke on reflecting, learning, and growing

H. Action Items/DiscussionFinal Reading Resolutions

- **Action Item #25-05-76:** It was moved by Member Kehoe and seconded by Member Sidhu to Approve the **amended** Resolution Designating Local District's Wayne RESA Election Representative. Member Vos will act as the P-CCS delegate and will attend the biennial election at Wayne RESA on June 2, 2025, to vote on the district's behalf. The resolution was amended to add Member Kehoe as the alternate delegate. (Final Reading)

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

Nays: None

The motion was carried 6-0

- **Action Item #25-05-77:** It was moved by Member Kehoe and seconded by Member Ahmed to Approve a Resolution for Local District Vote on Wayne RESA Budget. (Final Reading).

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

Nays: None

The motion was carried 6-0

I. Follow-up Board Questions

- Board members would like to receive updates on the new AI course proposal curriculum as it becomes available.

J. Recess

President Christenson called for a recess at 9:23 p.m. to transition into a Board workshop. The meeting reconvened at 9:32 p.m.

Special Meeting – Workshop (Dynamic Plan)

Board members, Superintendent Merritt, and district administrators participated in a workshop focused on the P-CCS Dynamic Plan. The session included a review of the ongoing efforts this year to support the plan's strategic objectives. Superintendent Merritt introduced Jennifer Pineda, ALP Director of Innovative Learning Systems, who shared updates on the district's transition to Monday.com. This project management platform offers enhanced visibility of departmental work across the district and will facilitate the creation of a dashboard to track strategic progress and performance goals. Board members will review the Dynamic Plan objectives to identify key initiatives they would like highlighted in a dashboard. Board members will meet again in a summer workshop to continue the discussion and provide feedback.

K. Adjournment

President Christenson adjourned the Regular Meeting at 10:31 p.m.

Lauren Christenson
President, Board of Education

*Approved at the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education on 6-10-25/dr