

BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

June 10, 2025

The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, Wayne and Washtenaw Counties, Michigan, met in a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, June 10, 2025, at 7 p.m. at the E. J. McClendon Educational Center, 454 S. Harvey Street, Plymouth, Michigan, 48170.

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

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

Absent: Members Christenson

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
Ms. Jody Malbon, Executive Director of Finance and Accounting

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 and Arjan Swaminathan led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2025-2026 Budget Hearing

The Budget and Truth in Taxation Hearing was called to order at 7:00 p.m. to provide an opportunity for public comment on the proposed budget for the 2025–2026 school year. Ms. Jill Minnick, Chief Finance and Operations Officer, and Ms. Jody Malbon, Executive Director of Finance and Accounting, presented an overview of the proposed budget, which is required to be adopted by June 30. The presentation included a review of financial updates for the fiscal year, as well as revenue and expenditure assumptions and enrollment projections, which are estimated at 15,883 students for the 2025–2026 school year. Initial state aid projections indicate a potential increase to \$10,000 per student, representing a \$392 per-student increase.

Ms. Minnick noted that the proposed budget aligns with the P-CCS Dynamic Plan, supporting short, mid, and long-term goals, and ensures that financial resources are directed to areas of greatest need to support all students. The presentation also included an overview of the support provided through tax levies and outlined the next steps in the budget process. These steps include continued monitoring of state aid outcomes and adjusting staffing levels to meet enrollment needs. A mid-year budget amendment will be issued to account for any changes resulting from legislative budget decisions.

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

First Reading Resolution

Consider Approval of a Resolution to Adopt the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Proposed Budget (First Reading)

Board members and citizens were given the opportunity to comment and ask questions on the proposed budget.

Citizens' Comments on the 2025-2026 Budget

- None

Vice President Sidhu called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:38 p.m.

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

Action Item #25-06-78: It was moved by Member Kehoe and seconded by Member Ahmed to Adopt the Agenda and the Consent Agenda as presented. The Consent Agenda consisted of Leaves, Resignations, Retirements, Layoffs, Regular Meeting Minutes from May 27, 2025, First Reading Policies, Out-of-Country Field Trips, and a Cooperative Education Agreement with Novi Community School District.

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

Nays: None

The motion was carried 6-0

Leaves

Pummill, Molly	Resource Room Hoben Elementary School	Educational Leave of Absence Effective 8-25-25 to 12-16-25
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Resignations

Lee, Jennifer	Elementary Classroom Eriksson Elementary School	Resignation Effective 5-27-25
Nabozny, Jessica	Elementary Classroom Workman Elementary School	Resignation Effective 8-10-25
Sotherland, Alayna	Art Secondary .20 VA Salem High School	Resignation Effective 6-11-25
Theisen, Trent	Math Canton High School	Resignation Effective 6-11-25

Retirements

Hedrick, Lisa	Art Secondary West Middle School	Retirement Effective 6-30-25
Murphy, Carolyn	Elective-Problem Solving	Retirement Effective 6-20-25
Wysocki, Victoria	Discovery Middle School Math Canton High School	Retirement Effective 6-11-25

Layoffs

Bennett, Toni	Healthcare Technician Bentley Elementary School	Layoff Effective 6-11-25
Heyde, Colleen	Healthcare Technician Farrand Elementary School	Layoff Effective 6-11-25
Kondratowicz, Jennifer	Healthcare Technician Hoben Elementary School	Layoff Effective 6-11-25
Torres Garduno, Veronica	Healthcare Technician Isbister Elementary School	Layoff Effective 6-11-25
Wallace, Amber	Healthcare Technician Starkweather Academy	Layoff Effective 6-11-25
Warren, Heather	Healthcare Technician Gallimore Elementary School	Layoff Effective 6-11-25
Kalinsky, Breanna	Elementary Classroom (0.50) Hoben Elementary School	Layoff Effective 6-11-25
Ladner, Christine	Innovation Teacher Tonda/Gallimore Elementary Schools	Layoff Effective 6-11-25
Stamatakis, Corrin	Integrated Science Pioneer Middle School	Layoff Effective 6-11-25
Tsakoff, Christopher	Health/Physical Education Plymouth High School	Layoff Effective 6-11-25

Approval of Minutes

The Regular Meeting Minutes from May 27, 2025, were approved as presented.

First Reading Policies

- Policy #7310-Disposition of Surplus Property
- Policy #7450-Property Inventory

Out-of-Country Field Trips

- Islands of the Azores – Plymouth High School – Grades 9-12
- Germany, Poland, the Czech Republic, and Hungary – Canton High School – Grades 9-12

Action Items

- Approved a Resolution for a Cooperative Education Program Agreement between Novi Community School District and Plymouth-Canton Community Schools for the 2025-2026 school year. (First and Final Reading)

B. Celebrating Success

Member Kehoe presented the STARS Award to Discovery Middle School student Averi Hanson for her exceptional efforts in promoting kindness and inclusion. Averi fosters a positive school climate by modeling empathy, partnering with peers, collaborating with counselors, and advocating for kindness throughout the building. She is a shining example of compassion and school spirit.

C. Board Committee Reports/Action

President's Report – Lauren Christenson

Vice President Sidhu, along with fellow Board members, congratulated the Class of 2025 and shared how much they enjoyed handing out diplomas during the recent commencement ceremonies. They thanked the staff members who worked hard to make these events memorable. Member Sidhu also recognized and thanked retirees for their years of service, wishing them all the best in their next chapter. She closed by wishing students, staff, and families a restful and well-earned summer break, encouraging everyone to take time to relax and recharge.

Student Performance and Achievement Committee (SPA) – Judy Westra

Member Sidhu shared that the SPA Committee met on June 4, 2025, and reviewed annual data and out-of-country field trips. The next SPA Committee meeting will be held in the fall. The date will be announced once it is scheduled after the Board's Organizational Meeting in July.

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 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 June 5, 2025. The committee reviewed the 2025-2026 budget proposal, the 2024-2025 final budget amendment, and a purchase of cameras for the CTE Department at P-CEP. The next F&O Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, June 19, 2025, at 5 p.m. in the Boardroom, and community members are welcome to attend.

Student Voice in Action Committee (SVA) - Lauren Christenson

Josh Patterson and Arjan Swaminathan, SVA Co-chairs, shared that the SVA Committee has not met since the last Board meeting. The next SVA committee meeting date. 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 congratulated the Class of 2025 and reflected on the meaningful commencement ceremonies recently held for both P-CEP and Starkweather graduates. She shared how proud she is of the graduating students and wished them continued success in their future endeavors. She also expressed gratitude to the staff members whose efforts helped make each celebration a memorable and successful event.

She also highlighted the impactful efforts of P-CEP students in Chris Belch's history classes, who spent the past two months honoring World War II veterans. Their project included in-depth research, visits to Michigan veterans' museums and cemeteries, and culminated in a final exam presentation and film documentary. As a powerful tribute, students also participated in the Memorial Day Parade, carrying portraits of the veterans they studied. Superintendent Merritt commended their dedication to preserving the legacy of those who served our nation.

In closing, she recognized the outstanding accomplishments of P-CCS students, teachers, and staff throughout the year. She also thanked families and community partners for their continued support and dedication. The 2024–2025 school year continued to reflect the district's strong culture of excellence, as students and staff earned numerous state and national accolades for their hard work and commitment.

E. Citizens' Comments

- Shannon Hilliker, Robin Mitchell, John Szkutnik, Ross Rogers, Athen Patsalis, and Beth Vaughn spoke on support for LGBTQ+ students
- Austin Meceado, Jason Mercado, Kelly Savine, Sahib Cheema, Gagaudeep Cheema, and Jim Hanner spoke in support of the Salem Boys Cross Country/Track Coach

F. Administrative Reports/Recommendations

Finance and Operations – Jill Minnick

2024-2025 Final Budget Amendment (Presentation)

Ms. Jill Minnick, Chief Finance and Operations Officer, and Ms. Jody Malbon, Executive Director of Finance and Accounting, presented an overview of the 2024-2025 Final Budget Amendment. The reviewed financial statements for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, provided an overview of general fund revenue and expenditures, and discussed the district's final fund balance, projected to be 18.2%, which exceeds the percentage required by district policy and best practice recommendations.

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

Final Reading Resolutions

Action Item #25-06-79: It was moved by Member Kehoe and seconded by Member Westra to Approve a Resolution to Adopt the 2024-2025 Final Budget Amendment (First and Final Reading)

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

Nays: None

The motion was carried 6-0

Action Item #25-06-80: was moved by Member Kehoe and seconded by Member Westra to Approve a Resolution to Purchase Security Cameras for Career and Technical Education (CTE) Program Areas at P-CEP, which are outdated and 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.

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

Nays: None

The motion was carried 6-0

Teaching and Learning – Bethany Rayl

Final Reading Resolutions

- **Action Item #25-06-81:** was moved by Member Kehoe and seconded by Member Ahmed to Approve a Resolution for a New Course Proposal (Understanding and Using Artificial Intelligence Responsibly). This course will provide a hands-on, comprehensive introduction to AI, aligns with district privacy standards, and is accessible to all 11-12 grade students, as no prior coding experience is required. The total 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 and will be implemented during the second semester of the 2025-2026 school year.

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

Nays: None

The motion was carried 6-0

G. Remaining Citizens' Comments

- Jack Hanner spoke in support of the Salem Boys Cross Country/Track Coach
- Laisren Carroll, Brad Heers, Matt Caramagno, Heather Gatny, Rachel Hayes, Laurie Mayers, Danielle Shepherd, Leo Saunders, Nancy Faerber, and Lauren Juip spoke on support for LGBTQ+ students
- Debra Finkenbinder-Pepper spoke on the separation of church and state
- Rebeka Fergusson-Lutz, Ann VanWagoner, Michelle Moustakas, and Sara Krzyzanski spoke in support of DEI policies
- Steve Gulyas provided P-CEP graduation commencement feedback
- Amanda Williams spoke on P-CCS stakeholders speaking first at Board meetings & citizens stating the city where they reside

H. Discussion

- None

I. Follow-up Board Questions

- None

J. Adjournment

Vice President Sidhu adjourned the Regular Meeting at 9:40 p.m.

Judy Westra
Secretary, Board of Education

*Approved at the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education on 6-24-25/dr