

BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

August 12, 2025

The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, Wayne and Washtenaw Counties, Michigan, met in a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, August 12, 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 7:01 p.m. in the boardroom.

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

Administrators: Dr. Monica Merritt, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Liz Vartanian-Gibbs, Assistant Superintendent of Student & Family Engagement
Kurt Tyszkiewicz, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services
Jen Curry, Chief Academic Officer
Abdul Madyun, Chief Human Resource Officer

Others Present: Diane Robertson, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and the Board
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 #26-08-04: 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, Recalls, Regular (Organizational) Meeting Minutes from July 15, 2025, Special Meeting Minutes of July 21, 2025, and First Reading Policies.

Ayes: Members Christenson, Kehoe, Picard, Vos, and Westra
Nays: None
The motion was carried 5-0

New Hires

Allen, Justin	Resource Room Field Elementary School	Effective 8-25-25
Austin, Abigail	Elementary Classroom Hoben Elementary School	Effective 8-25-25
Bruchnak, Carmen	Speech Pathology Bentley Elementary School	Effective 8-25-25
Cox, Jacob	Academic Skills/Political Science Starkweather Academy	Effective 8-25-25
Durden, Antoinette	Media Specialist Canton High School	Effective 8-25-25
Hamel, Holly	Early On Service Provider Allen Early Learning Academy	Effective 8-25-25
Hood, Mandy	Resource Room/Co-Teach with Gen Ed. Canton High School	Effective 8-25-25
Justice, Travis	Chemistry Plymouth High School	Effective 8-25-25
Labor, Cynthia	Language Arts East Middle School	Effective 8-25-25
Lee, Laurie	Math Salem High School	Effective 8-25-25

Parkin, Elayna	Pre-K (GSRP) Allen Early Learning Academy	Effective 8-25-25
Salisbury, Rachel	History Plymouth High School	Effective 8-25-25
Stromberg, Anna	Speech Pathologist Discovery Middle School	Effective 8-25-25
Vingren, Julee	Pre-K (GSRP) Hoben Elementary School	Effective 8-25-25
Kasper, Annie	Assistant Principal Discovery Middle School	Effective 8-13-25
Greene, Joseph	Executive Director of High School Education Administration Building	Effective 8-18-25

Leave of Absences

Bostley, Scout	(0.8) Project Based Learning Pioneer Middle School	Childcare Leave of Absence Effective 8-25-25 to 11-24-25
Kane, Alaura	Elementary Classroom Hulsing Elementary School	Childcare Leave of Absence Effective 8-25-25 to 11-20-25
Vaughan, Brianna	Elementary Classroom Tonda Elementary School	Childcare Leave of Absence Effective 8-25-25 to 11-14-25
Viguilla, Rebecca	(0.5) Elementary Classroom – EL Farrand Elementary School	Childcare Leave of Absence Effective 8-25-25 to 1-2-26

Resignations

Authier, Timothy	Middle School Assistant Principal Liberty Middle School	Resignation, Effective 8-4-25
Bicy, Kristi	Student Success Specialist Smith Elementary School	Resignation Effective 8-18-25
Brooks, Stacy	Counselor (Non-Instructional) West Middle School	Resignation Effective 8-1-25
Cusick, Maria Fernanda	Spanish Pioneer Middle School	Resignation Effective 7-23-25
Dunfield, Nicole	Math Discovery Middle School	Resignation Effective 7-28-25
Gaddis, Tameka	Counselor (Non-Instructional) Plymouth High School	Resignation Effective 8-12-25
Hull, Randolph	Middle School Assistant Principal Discovery Middle School	Resignation Effective 8-12-25
Medlen, Margaret	Occupational Therapy Farrand Elementary School	Resignation Effective 8-19-25
Mulvin, Emily	Human Relations/Creative Foods Canton High School	Resignation Effective 7-21-25
Neuhalfen, Jennifer	(0.7) Occupational Therapy Eriksson Elementary School	Resignation Effective 8-19-25
Rieder, Elizabeth	Elementary Classroom Hoben Elementary School	Resignation Effective 8-1-25
Vankrevelen, Samantha	Cognitive Impairment Bentley Elementary School	Resignation Effective 7-10-25

Recalls

Tsakhoff, Christopher

Approval of Minutes

The Regular (Organizational) Meeting Minutes from July 15, 2025, the Special Meeting Minutes from July 21, 2025, were approved as presented.

First Reading Policies

- Policy #6550 – Travel Payment and Reimbursement

B. Action Items

Action Item #26-08-05: It was moved by Member Kehoe and Seconded by Member Westra to approve a resolution for the hire of the Executive Director of High School Education – Joseph Greene. This resolution was removed from the consent agenda in advance of the meeting to allow for additional board discussion concerning the uncertainty of the state budget. (First and Final Reading)

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

Nays: None

The motion was carried 5-0

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

President Christenson shared that the Board of Education and Superintendent Merritt participated in a Board Governance Workshop on Effective Leadership on July 21, 2025. She thanked her colleagues for their commitment to strengthening the governance team and noted that a follow-up workshop will be considered later in the agenda. She announced that Board Committee assignments for the 2025–2026 school year are complete, and committees are now organizing their priorities and calendars for the year. In closing, she encouraged everyone to enjoy the remainder of the summer and looks forward to welcoming students and staff back soon.

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 will be in September, and the date will be announced as soon as it is confirmed. She welcomed Member Sidhu back to the SPA committee and also welcomed Member Vos as a new member to the committee for the 2025-2026 school year.

Policy Advisory Committee (F&O) – Anupam Sidhu

Member Sidhu reported that the Policy Committee has not met since the last Board meeting. The next policy meeting is scheduled for August 26, 2025, at 4:30 p.m. and everyone is welcome to attend.

Finance and Operations Committee - Patrick Kehoe

Member Kehoe shared that the Finance & Operations Committee has not met since the last Board meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 21, 2025, at 5 p.m. in the boardroom, and everyone is welcome to attend.

Student Voice in Action Committee (SVA) - Lauren Christenson

Josh Patterson, SVA Co-Chair, shared that the SVA Committee has not met since the last Board meeting. The next committee meeting will be held in the fall, and the date will be announced once this meeting has been scheduled.

D. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Merritt reminded district families that the P-CCS online back-to-school check-in opens tomorrow via the MISTAR Parent Connection website. This required process for all returning K-12 students allows families to update important medical, demographic, and contact information. The check-in must be completed by September 29. Families with middle or high school students living more than 1.5 miles from school, and families with elementary students living more than one mile away should also register for transportation during check-in.

She also recognized the P-CEP Lightning Robotics team, which hosted its annual "Robots in the Park" event at Kellogg Park this past Sunday. The program engaged families in hands-on STEM activities, introduced FIRST robotics programs, and provided opportunities for students to explore robotics in a fun, accessible way.

In closing, Superintendent Merritt invited the community to the P-CCS Back-to-School Bash on Saturday, August 23, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the P-CEP bus loop behind Salem High School. The event will feature games, food, tours of the high school campus, and opportunities to connect with district leaders before the new school year begins.

E. Citizens' Comments

- Laurie Mayers, Rachel Hayes, and Meta Mendel-Reyes spoke in support of LGBTQ+ students
- Nancy Faerber spoke on the impact of Medicaid cuts
- Ian Gonzalez spoke on safe gun storage

**Member Ahmed arrived at 7:32 p.m.*

F. Administrative Reports/Recommendations

Finance and Operations – Jill Minnick

Final Reading Resolutions

- **Action Item #26-08-06:** It was moved by Member Kehoe and seconded by Member Westra to approve a Resolution to Purchase Tomcat Floor Scrubbers. The Facilities Department seeks approval to purchase three (3) Tomcat Pro 545V2 rider floor scrubbers to replace outdated models that are no longer practical to repair. The purchase will be made through Imperial-Date via an OMNIA contract, at a cost of \$46,837.50. This project will be funded from the general fund custodial equipment replacement budget. (Final Reading)

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

Nays: None

The motion was carried 6-0

- **Action Item #26-08-07:** It was moved by Member Kehoe and seconded by Member Westra to approve a Resolution to purchase John Deere Tractors. The Facilities Department seeks approval to purchase six (6) John Deere X580 lawn tractors, each equipped with mower decks and snow plow attachments, to replace aging and non-functional equipment. The tractors will be purchased from Hutson, Inc. through the State of Michigan's MiDeal cooperative purchasing program. The cost per unit is \$7,746.24, with each snow plow kit priced at \$1,297.46, resulting in a total purchase cost of \$54,262.14. This purchase will be funded through the 2024-2025 maintenance equipment replacement budget. (Final Reading)

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

Nays: None

The motion was carried 6-0

G. Remaining Citizens' Comments

None

H. Discussion

- The Board reviewed potential dates for the next Board Governance Workshop, and Superintendent Merritt will confirm if the facilitator is available on November 1, 8, or 15.

I Follow-up Board Questions

None

J. Adjournment

President Christenson adjourned the Regular Meeting at 7:44 p.m.

Judy Westra
Secretary, Board of Education

**Approved at the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education on 8-26-25 /dr*