

BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

August 26, 2025

The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, Wayne and Washtenaw Counties, Michigan, met in a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, August 26, 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, and Vos
Absent: Member Westra

Administrators: Dr. Monica Merritt, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Liz Vartanian-Gibbs, Assistant Superintendent of Student & Family Engagement
Kurt Tyszkiewicz, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services
Jill Minnick, Chief Finance and Operations Officer
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
Arjan Swaminathan, SVA Student Co-Chair

Arjan Swaminathan led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Action Item #26-08-08: It was moved by Member Sidhu and seconded by Member Kehoe to Adopt the Agenda and the Consent Agenda as presented. The Consent Agenda consisted of New Hires, Leaves, Resignations, Regular Meeting Minutes from August 12, 2025, and Final Reading Policies.

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

Nays: None

The motion was carried 6-0

New Hires

Burkhart, Hannah	Elementary Classroom Bentley Elementary School	Effective 8-25-25
Downs, Marisa	Elementary Classroom Hoben Elementary School	Effective 8-25-25
Ford, Alexis	Math Discovery Middle School	Effective 8-25-25
Fuller, Rebecca	Resource Room Eriksson Elementary School	Effective 8-25-25
Garant, Lindsey	Elementary Classroom Bentley Elementary School	Effective 8-25-25
Julian, Michaela	(0.6) Math Liberty Middle School	Effective 8-25-25
Mench, Lindsey	Pre-K (GSRP) Canton High School	Effective 8-25-25
Vella, Caitlyn	Resource Room Workman/Eriksson Elementary Schools	Effective 8-25-25
Majewski, Brynn	Student Support Coordinator Tonda Elementary School	Effective 9-2-25
Villasenor, Andres	Food Service Coordinator Administration Building	Effective 8-20-25

Wick, Alexandra	Art Secondary West Middle School	Effective 8-25-25
<u>Leaves</u>		
Gales, Jamie	Assistive Technology Specialist Special Education Curriculum Center	Childcare Leave of Absence Effective 8-25-25 to 10-31-25
Majetic, Jerome	Social Studies Pioneer Middle School	Leave of Absence Effective 8-25-25 to 6-11-25
<u>Resignations</u>		
Bragg, Deborah	Resource Room Hulsing Elementary School	Resignation Effective 8-24-25
Coffey, Karolyn	Teacher Consultant Starkweather Academy	Resignation Effective 8-22-25
Lauerman, Amy	Elementary Classroom Workman Elementary School	Resignation Effective 8-15-25
Petitpren-Hayes, Jenavieve	Accounting Specialist – Payroll Administration Building	Resignation Effective 9-8-25
Sassak, Diane	Psychologist (Home School) Plymouth High School	Resignation Effective 8-20-25
Siersha, Susan	Speech Pathologist Salem High School	Resignation Effective 8-11-25
Stewart, Jessica	Speech Pathologist Allen Early Learning Academy	Resignation Effective 8-20-25
Taggart, Deborah	Resource Room Eriksson Elementary School	Resignation Effective 8-24-25
Vanner, Tahira	Social Worker ASD Dodson Elementary School	Resignation Effective 8-8-25

Approval of Minutes

The Regular Meeting Minutes from August 12, 2025, were approved as presented.

Final Reading Policies

- Policy #6550 – Travel Payment and Reimbursement

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

President Christenson wished everyone well as summer comes to a close. She enjoyed attending the Staff Welcome Back gathering at the new P-CEP Stadium, calling it a wonderful way to launch professional development and celebrate the return of staff members. She thanked Board members Picard and Vos for joining her, praised the student performances, and wished all P-CCS staff a great week leading up to the first day of school.

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 has been scheduled for Wednesday, September 3, 2025, at 5 p.m. in the boardroom, and everyone is welcome to attend.

Policy Advisory Committee (F&O) – Anupam Sidhu

Member Sidhu reported that the Policy Committee met this evening to review the committee's goals and priorities for the upcoming year. The committee also examined rescinded Policy #2410. After discussion and consultation with district legal counsel and Neola, the committee recommended adding additional language to Policy #2414 to capture language from the rescinded policy regarding the prohibition on referral for abortions. The revised policy will be presented to the full Board for approval at the next meeting. The committee also reviewed policies focused on ensuring safe spaces and equal educational opportunities for all students. In addition, a policy on gifts, grants,

and requests was discussed, with the committee seeking input from Neola before continuing further review. The next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for September 23, 2025, at 5:30 p.m., and all are 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, September 4, 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.

C. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Merritt shared highlights from the Back to School Bash, held last Saturday. District families had the opportunity to learn about the exciting things happening at P-CCS while enjoying food, games, a petting farm, face painting, and tours of the high school campus. She thanked the Communications & Marketing team for their efforts in organizing this event, as well as district staff, sponsors, and Board members for their support in making it a success.

She also shared updates from this morning's Welcome Back Staff Events held at P-CEP and across the district, which included presentations and professional learning sessions for staff as they prepare to welcome students back to their classrooms. She expressed appreciation for the district's dedicated teachers, noting their commitment to go above and beyond to support their students' success.

Additionally, she shared the exciting news received from the College Board this month when scores for the 2025 Advanced Placement exams were released. The report showed that 91% of exams taken by P-CEP students earned a score of 3 or higher, placing the district above the national average by more than 20%.

Superintendent Merritt congratulated Kayla McDaniel, Director of Food & Nutrition Services, and her team for receiving five USDA Healthy Meal Incentives Awards, recognizing their efforts to promote healthy options and engage students in school meals and food service programs.

In addition, she noted that P-CEP's three high schools were recently ranked among the Top 36 best high schools in Michigan and within the top 5% nationwide by *U.S. News & World Report*. Rankings are determined by multiple factors, including college readiness, access to college-level curriculum, student performance on AP and IB exams, state assessment scores and proficiency rates, underserved student performance, and graduation rates.

In closing, she provided an update on the summer bond construction projects, highlighting progress on the new P-CEP tennis courts, completion of the new stadium, repaving of parking lots at Canton High School, continued work on the P-CEP Innovation Hub, renovations at Salem High School, and additions and improvements at Farrand Elementary School. She thanked the community for its ongoing support of the 2020 Bond, which continues to deliver important improvements for students and families.

D. Citizens' Comments

- Heather Gatny, Rachel Hayes, and Laurie Mayers spoke in support of LGBTQ+ students

E. Remaining Citizens' Comments

None

F. Discussion

- Board Governance Workshop – Superintendent Merritt will check with the MASB facilitator to see if she is available on October 15, 22, or 30 since November 8 is no longer an option for a workshop.
- Board Team Building Ideas - The Board discussed the possibility of volunteering at the Miracle League in Plymouth, which takes place on Saturdays throughout September and October. Members will share their availability with President Christenson, who will provide the finalized dates at the next Board meeting.

G. Follow-up Board Questions

None

H. Adjournment

President Christenson adjourned the Regular Meeting at 7:42 p.m.

Judy Westra
Secretary, Board of Education

*Approved at the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education on 9-9-25/dr