

BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
September 23, 2025

The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, Wayne and Washtenaw Counties, Michigan, met in a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, September 23, 2025, at 7:00 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 Bentley Elementary School Student Support Coordinator Julie O'Hara, following her courageous battle with cancer. She extended heartfelt condolences to Julie's family and colleagues and requested a moment of silence in her honor.

President Christenson called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. in the boardroom.

Present: Members Ahmed, Christenson, Kehoe, Picard, Sidhu, Vos, and Westra
Absent: None

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
Matthew Lents, Director of Facilities and Capital Projects

Others Present: Diane Robertson, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and the Board
Josh Patterson, SVA Student Co-Chair
Arjan Swaminathan, SVA Student Co-Chair
Brian Geasman, McCarthy and Smith Senior Project Manager
Nick Tindall, McCarthy and Smith Assistant Project Manager

Arjan Swaminathan led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Action Item #26-09-10: 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 New Hires, Leaves, Resignations, Regular Meeting Minutes from September 9, 2025, and Final Reading Policies.

Ayes: Members Ahmed, Christenson, Kehoe, Picard, Sidhu, Vos, and Westra
Nays: None
The motion was carried 7-0

New Hires

Cleary, Linda	(0.6) Language Arts Liberty Middle School	Effective 9-15-25
Joboulian, Michelle	Psychologist Bentley and Miller Elementary Schools	Effective 9-15-25
Passerman, Tracy	Elementary Classroom Workman Elementary School	Effective 9-10-25
Nicole Drews	Accounting Specialist-Payroll Administrative Building	Effective 10-6-25

Leaves

Low, Kathryn	Elementary Classroom Bentley Elementary School	Childcare Leave of Absence Effective 8-29-25 to 11-28-25
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Resignations

Bartley, Shannon	Student Success Specialist Miller Elementary School	Resignation Effective 10-2-25
Bublitz, Joseph	Student Support Specialist Isbister Elementary School	Resignation Effective 9-26-25

Approval of Minutes

The Regular Meeting Minutes from September 9, 2025, were approved as presented.

Final Reading Policies

- Policy #2414 – Reproductive Health and Family Planning

B. Celebrating Success

Member Ahmed presented the Mary Beth Carroll Extra Miler Award to Colin Walter, Plant Engineer at Tonda Elementary School. Colin's responsiveness, attention to detail, and strong work ethic have truly transformed the atmosphere at Tonda. He takes great pride in maintaining a clean, safe, and welcoming learning environment, and his dedication is evident in the school's daily operations. Colin's consistent support of staff and students has not gone unnoticed and is deeply appreciated by the school community.

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

President Christenson welcomed everyone as the district settles into the new school year and shared that she is working with PCEA President JJ Lockwood to include teacher representation at Board committee meetings. She noted that, following this evening's meeting, the Board will convene a workshop to finalize its 2025–2026 goals, schedule superintendent evaluation check-ins, and set dates for a team-building opportunity. She also reminded families about the upcoming Parent Council meeting on Thursday, September 25, at 9:30 a.m. in the boardroom, and encouraged everyone to attend.

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 committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 1, 2025, at 5 p.m., and everyone is welcome to attend.

Policy Advisory Committee (F&O) – Anupam Sidhu

Member Sidhu shared that the policy committee met this evening and reviewed Policy #6320 concerning purchasing. The committee also discussed the policy review cycle to ensure all policies are examined. The committee may add an extra meeting in December to support this work. The next Policy committee meeting is scheduled for October 28, at 5:30 p.m., and everyone is welcome to attend.

Finance and Operations Committee - Patrick Kehoe

Member Kehoe shared that the F&O committee met on September 18, 2025, and discussed the Farrand Elementary construction project in depth. The committee also reviewed purchases for two single-lane EVOLV units and a vertical lift replacement and received summer construction updates, which are included on this evening's agenda. The committee also previewed plans for the Salem High School multipurpose addition and Canton High School outdoor concession renovations, and approved the F&O current year calendar. The next committee meeting will be held on Thursday, October 9, 2025, at 5 p.m. in the boardroom, and everyone is welcome to attend.

Student Voice in Action Committee (SVA) - Lauren Christenson

Josh Patterson and Arjan Swaminathan, SVA Co-Chairs, shared that the SVA Committee met on September 15, 2025. The committee planned initiatives for the upcoming school year, discussed the new member process, and finalized the selection of student liaisons to attend Board committee meetings. Students in grades 6-12 interested in joining SVA were encouraged to complete the Google form sent to their district email earlier this week. The next SVA committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 20, 2025, at 4:30 p.m. at Pioneer Middle School, and everyone is welcome to attend.

D Citizens' Comments

- Erica Garbacz, Jeff Kropodra, Laura Mortier, and Matt Mortier spoke in support of Bentley Elementary School
- Polly Barhrouche and Judy Oldfield-Wilson spoke in support of immigrant students
- Megan Rutkowski, Erin Hoard, and Katie Kiolbasa spoke about the building condition and climate at Farrand Elementary School
- Rachel Hayes spoke in support of LGBTQ+ students
- Nancy Faerber spoke about school funding and advocacy for the state budget to be finalized.

E. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Merritt and P-CCS CORE team members presented an overview of each department's 2025-2026 focus goals and how they align with the district's Dynamic Plan objectives. Strategic themes continue to emphasize student-centered learning, leadership in educational innovation, equity and inclusion, and community engagement. The presentation highlighted the district's ongoing commitment to raising student achievement, fostering safe and inclusive environments, and strengthening partnerships to support students and families.

F. Administrative Reports

Finance and Operations – Jill Minnick

Summer Construction Updates (Presentation)

Team members from McCarthy and Smith along with Matthew Lents, Director of Facilities and Capital Projects, provided an update on the major bond construction projects completed this summer throughout the district. Highlights included renovations and an addition at Farrand Elementary School, secure entrances and facility upgrades at East and West Middle Schools, completion of the North Stadium at P-CEP, a new Innovation Hub at Canton High School, and ongoing remodeling at Salem High School. Additional improvements included replacement of the P-CEP tennis courts, parking lot paving, and detention pond work at Canton High School, as well as districtwide fencing upgrades. These projects reflect continued progress to enhance facilities and learning environments through the 2020 Bond.

First Reading Resolutions

- **Consider Approval of a Resolution to Purchase Two Single Lane Mobile EVOLV Units.** Josh Meier, Director of Safety and Security, provided an overview of this recommended purchase to enhance districtwide safety through the use of mobile concealed weapon detection systems. The proposal includes the purchase of two single-lane EVOLV units from Security 101 at a cost not to exceed \$143,058, which includes four years of licensing and software updates. Selecting two single-lane units provides greater flexibility for deployment at multiple district events and locations. Funding for this purchase is available through the State of Michigan School Aid Act, Section 31aa. (First Reading)

Final Reading Resolutions

- **Action Item #26-09-11:** It was moved by Member Kehoe and seconded by Member Picard to Approve a Resolution to Purchase a Replacement Vertical Lift at East Middle School. Matthew Lents, Director of Facilities and Capital Projects, provided an overview of this recommended purchase to replace the inoperable vertical platform lift, which can no longer be repaired due to obsolete parts and lack of service availability. A first and final reading was requested to expedite the replacement and ensure safe and equitable access to the gymnasium for all students, staff, and visitors. The recommended vendor is A-4 Access at a cost of \$42,331.60, which will be paid with 2023 bond funds. (First and Final Reading)

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

Nays: None

The motion was carried 7-0

G. Remaining Citizens' Comments

- Sarah Fish, Brittany Albaugh, Joanne Hitt, Angela Fisher, and Jen Warmolts spoke about Hulsing Elementary School's 3rd-grade class sizes
- Michelle Moustakas spoke about Western Wayne Indivisible

H. Action Items/Discussion

Action Item #26-09-12: It was moved by Member Kehoe and Seconded by Member Ahmed to consider Approval of a Resolution to Appoint MASB Voting Delegates at the 2025 Assembly on October 23, 2025. Member Sidhu and Member Vos agreed to represent the district as voting delegates. (First and Final Reading)

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

Nays: None

The motion was carried 7-0

I. Follow-up Board Questions

- The Board asked if there would be opportunities for the community to tour bond construction projects.

J. Recess – Transition to Board Workshop

President Christenson called for a recess at 10:02 p.m. to transition to a Board workshop. The meeting was reconvened at 10:13 p.m.

Special Meeting - Workshop

Board Goals

The Board of Education and Superintendent Merritt met in a workshop to review and discuss Board Goals for the 2025-2026 school year.

The board also selected dates for superintendent evaluation check-ins during the current school year, which will be added to the Board's master meeting calendar.

Board members discussed their availability to volunteer at the Miracle League in Plymouth. October 11 and 12 were identified as preferred dates.

K. Adjournment

President Christenson adjourned the Regular Meeting at 10:49 p.m.

Judy Westra
Secretary, Board of Education

*Approved at the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education on 10/14/25-dr